AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

1-34.   (Canceled)

35.   (New)   A method of minimizing a number of messages sent over a radio interface between a wireless communication network and first and second mobile User Equipments (UEs) by automatically discovering a shared multimedia (SMM) service capability of the two UEs, wherein the wireless communication network includes a circuit-switched network supporting voice calls and a packet-switched network supporting multimedia services, the method comprising the steps of:

storing in the packet-switched network, the SMM service capabilities of the first and second UEs when each UE powers on;

setting up a voice call from the first UE to the second UE in the circuit-switched network;

automatically sending from the circuit-switched network to the packet-switched network, a request for the SMM service capabilities of the first and second UEs upon detecting a triggering event;

retrieving by the packet-switched network, the stored SMM service capabilities of the first and second UEs;

determining whether the first and second UEs have matching SMM service capabilities;

when the first and second UEs have no matching SMM service capabilities, taking no further action; and

when the first and second UEs have matching SMM service capabilities, sending an SMM-Notification message from the packet-switched network to the first and second UEs indicating that the first and second UEs have matching SMM service capabilities;

wherein the first and second UEs learn of matching SMM service capabilities without having to send a request for SMM service capabilities over the radio interface.

36.   (New)   The method according to claim 35, wherein the step of automatically sending the request for the SMM service capabilities upon detecting a triggering event includes sending the request upon detecting that a user of the second UE has answered the call.

37.   (New)   The method according to claim 35, wherein the steps of retrieving the stored SMM capabilities, determining whether the first and second UEs have matching SMM service capabilities, and sending an SMM-Notification message are performed by a Session Initiation Protocol (SIP) Application Server for Shared Multimedia Services (SMM-AS).

38.   (New)   The method according to claim 35, wherein the step of sending the SMM-Notification message includes sending the SMM-Notification message to the first and second UEs as a Session Initiation Protocol (SIP) message.

39.   (New)   The method according to claim 35, wherein the step of automatically sending the request for the SMM service capabilities from the circuit-switched network includes automatically generating the request utilizing Intelligent Network (IN) technology or Parlay technology.

40.   (New)   The method according to claim 35, further comprising providing by the first and second UEs, an indication to users of the UEs that the first and second UEs have matching SMM service capabilities.

41.   (New)   A system for minimizing a number of messages sent over a radio interface between a wireless communication network and first and second mobile User Equipments (UEs) by automatically discovering a shared multimedia (SMM) service capability of the two UEs, wherein the wireless communication network includes a circuit-switched network supporting voice calls and a packet-switched network supporting multimedia services, the system comprising:

a database in the packet-switched network for storing the SMM service capabilities of the first and second UEs when each UE powers on;

call setup means in the circuit-switched network for setting up a voice call from the first UE to the second UE;

means for automatically sending from the circuit-switched network to the packet-switched network, a request for the SMM service capabilities of the first and second UEs upon detecting a triggering event;

means within the packet-switched network for retrieving the stored SMM service capabilities of the first and second UEs and for determining whether the first and second UEs have matching SMM service capabilities; and

means for sending an SMM-Notification message from the packet-switched network to the first and second UEs indicating that the first and second UEs have matching SMM service capabilities, responsive to a determination that the first and second UEs have matching SMM service capabilities;

wherein the first and second UEs learn of matching SMM service capabilities without having to send a request for SMM service capabilities over the radio interface.

42.   (New)   The system according to claim 41, wherein the means for automatically sending the request for the SMM service capabilities upon detecting a triggering event sends the request upon detecting that a user of the second UE has answered the call.

43.   (New)   The system according to claim 41, wherein the means within the packet-switched network for retrieving the stored SMM service capabilities of the first and second UEs and for determining whether the first and second UEs have matching SMM service capabilities is a Session Initiation Protocol (SIP) Application Server for Shared Multimedia Services (SMM-AS).

44.   (New)   The system according to claim 41, wherein the SMM-Notification message is a Session Initiation Protocol (SIP) message.

45.   (New)   The system according to claim 41, wherein the circuit-switched network includes means for automatically sending the request for the SMM service capabilities utilizing Intelligent Network (IN) technology or Parlay technology.

46.   (New)   The system according to claim 41, further comprising means within the first and second UEs, for providing an indication to users of the UEs that the first and second UEs have matching SMM service capabilities.

47.   (New)   A server in a system for minimizing a number of messages sent over a radio interface between a wireless communication network and first and second mobile User Equipments (UEs) by automatically discovering a shared multimedia (SMM) service capability of the two UEs, wherein the wireless communication network includes a circuit-switched network supporting voice calls and a packet-switched network supporting multimedia services, and the server is implemented in the packet-switched network, the server comprising:

means for receiving from the circuit-switched network, an automatically request for the SMM service capabilities of the first and second UEs;

means for retrieving from a database, the stored SMM service capabilities of the first and second UEs;

means for analyzing the SMM service capabilities of the first and second UEs to determine whether the first and second UEs have matching SMM service capabilities; and

means for sending an SMM-Notification message to the first and second UEs indicating that the first and second UEs have matching SMM service capabilities, responsive to a determination that the first and second UEs have matching SMM service capabilities;

wherein the first and second UEs learn of matching SMM service capabilities without having to send a request for SMM service capabilities over the radio interface.

48. (New) The server according to claim 47, wherein the server is a Session Initiation Protocol (SIP) Application Server for Shared Multimedia Services (SMM-AS).

49. (New) The server according to claim 47, wherein the SMM-Notification message is a Session Initiation Protocol (SIP) message.

50. (New) The server of claim 47, further comprising a processor and a computer usable medium for storing computer program instructions, wherein the processor controls the receiving, retrieving, analyzing, and sending means when the processor executes the computer program instructions.